Decline in Steel Production

3236. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steel industry is in doldrums as the present production trends do not indicate that the country would reach the target of 25 million tonnes by 2000 A.D.;

(b) what are the reasons for the gradual decline in steel production; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to step up production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Steel production has in fact shown a gradual increase in the past few years and not a decline.

(c) In order to further increase the production of steel a programme of investment in improved maintenance and in modernisation of steel plants is under implementation.

Use of Butter Oil supplied by USA

3237. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States have shipped 2305 tonnes of butter oil under the sugar quota programme during 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this shipment is a part of PL-480 project;

(c) whether this butter oil is being used as edible oil;

(d) whether it is a fact that this butter oil is not being mixed with skimmed milk powder to form milk; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) It was envisaged that the butter oil would be used for retail sale to consumer/user and sale as a component in the recombination of fluid milk.

Biological control through Sugarcane Pests

3238. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a biological control has been found more effective and more economical in case of two sugarcane pests as reported in the "Times of India" of the 1st February, 1988 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that these pests will eliminate/reduce the use of dangerous chemical compounds used at present; and

(c) whether the Integrated Pest Management is gaining acceptance in this country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HAR KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Biological control has been found to be very effective in the case of top borer and internode borer of sugarcane in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. In the case of top borer, a parsite *Isotima javansis* was introduced from North India in late fiftees which got established in the field and supressed the pest to the level of a minor pest in both the States. Similarly, in the case of internode borer *Trichogramma chilonis* in combination with cultural pratices reduced the pest incidence substantially.

(b) Biological control of these pests will certainly reduce the use of chemical compounds markedly when adopted extensively